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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

ONE HUNDRED FIRST REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

Acting Chairman: Mr. Fernando REMIREZ de ESTENOZ BARCIELA (Cuba)

1. The Working Group held its 139th and 140th meetings on 30 June and 12 July 1994, respectively.

1. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

2. In connection with the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters, the Working Group recalled that the General Assembly, by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961, had authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. By paragraph 3 (9) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, the Assembly had directed the Committee to continue to hold meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

3. The Working Group decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it should consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 1995 in connection with the above, and, when particulars of such meetings had become known, that the Committee should request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure.

2. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

4. The Working Group proposed that the Special Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee should continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 15 February 1994, contained in document A/AC.109/PV.1429, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Working Group also recommended that the General Assembly should make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1995.

3. Pattern of conferences

5. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 48/222 of 23 December 1993. By organizing its programme of work effectively and by holding extensive consultations and working in informal session, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Working Group recommended that the Special Committee should continue to make optimum and effective use of the conference-servicing resources.

6. The Working Group decided to recommend that, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 1995, the Committee should consider holding its meetings according to the following schedule:

(a) Plenary

February/June	As required
July	Up to 20 meetings (6 to 8 meetings a week)

(b) Subsidiary bodies

March/June	20 meetings (1 to 4 meetings a week)

7. It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1995, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of new developments that might arise. The Working Group recommended that, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, the Special Committee, while fulfilling its mandate, should strive to keep its meetings to a minimum.

4. Control and limitation of documentation

8. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 of 13 December 1984 and 48/222 B of 23 December 1993. Those measures included the circulation of its documents in provisional or unofficial form whenever appropriate. The Working Group recommended that, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, the Special Committee should streamline its report to the General Assembly. In order to limit the Committee's documentation further, the Working Group decided to recommend that in preparing the general working papers on the Territories, the Secretariat should, where applicable, incorporate under separate headings those sections relating to foreign economic and other interests and those on military activities and arrangements on those Territories.

9. The Working Group further decided to recommend to the Special Committee that the report of the Secretary-General relating to information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations should be published only as a document of the General Assembly and eliminate its publication under the A/AC.109/ series. Should an updated report be required for any forthcoming session of the General Assembly, an addendum would be issued.

10. By its resolution 48/222 B, the General Assembly encouraged all bodies currently entitled to written meeting records to review the need for such records, particularly verbatim records, and to communicate their recommendations to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Special Committee to maintain its verbatim records.

5. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

11. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee should continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give at its forty-ninth session.

6. International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

12. Noting that the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism provided for the holding of seminars in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, alternately, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it should organize in 1995 a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be attended by representatives of all the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, irrespective of their location.

13. The Working Group noted that the regional seminar, which was to be held at Headquarters from 10 to 12 May 1994, had been postponed to a future date. The Working Group therefore decided to recommend to the Special Committee that the

seminar in the Caribbean region should be used as an occasion to carry out a mid-term review of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and to hear the views of representatives of all the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

14. The Working Group further decided to recommend that the Special Committee should invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action and submit a report to the Assembly at its fiftieth session.

7. Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

15. The commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995 would provide the most appropriate opportunity to take stock of the historic progress achieved in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as well as the crucial role played by the United Nations system in that regard. To that end, the Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee should plan to undertake the following activities in 1995:

(a) The Chairman of the Special Committee should participate in the special commemorative meetings of the General Assembly in observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations;

(b) The Special Committee, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), should organize a special commemorative meeting during 1995 in observance of Africa Liberation Day, which falls on 25 May 1995, it being understood that the specific modalities and procedures for the commemoration would be subject to subsequent consultations between the Chairman of the Committee and its members;

(c) In their programme of activities for the fiftieth anniversary, the United Nations fiftieth anniversary secretariat, in consultation with the Special Committee of 24 and the Department of Public Information, should be requested to make arrangements for wide publicity coverage of the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, including the production of a documentary and television spots and the holding of a round table of journalists;

(d) The specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned should be requested to include and highlight, among their various activities in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary, the role played by the United Nations in the field of decolonization. These activities might include the preparation of special publications and studies and the holding of exhibits, etc.

16. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee, in undertaking the above-mentioned activities in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, should cooperate and work closely with the

United Nations fiftieth anniversary secretariat and the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations.

8. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

17. The Working Group decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In that regard, the Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to further amending them, where appropriate.